(b) No, Sir. As a part of the Company's social responsibility, SAIL has provided employment opportunities to Engineers belonging to North Eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in view the backwardness and under-development of these areas and the special conditions prevailing there. During the year 1995-96 a total of 100 engineers (75 from North Eastern States and 25 from Jammu & Kashmir) were appointed as Junior Executives from these States. The appointment of 28 engineers (24 from North Eastern States and 4 from Jammu & Kashmir) who joined at Rourkela Steel Plant are a part of this group.

The candidates appointed are engineering graduates having a minimum of 60% makrs (50% for SC/ST category candidates).

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above do not arise.

Financial Loss Due to Inferior Quality of Coal

472. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel manufacturers are suffering heavy financial loss due to the inferior quality of coal availability in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action with a view to provide superior quality of coal to them in sufficient quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The indigenous coking coal has high ash and poor coking properties. This results in poor strength of metallurgical coke which in turn affects the blast furnance productivity and profitability of steel plants. The integrated steel plants are importing low ash metallurgical coal to offset the high ash in indigeneus coking coal so that productivity of blast furnace and quality of Hot Metal and Steel are not affected. According to Coal India Limited, the bulk supplier of indigenous coal, following steps are being taken to supply good quality coal to steel plants:—

(i) Modernisation Plans for existing washeries to supply 17±0.5% ash level coal;

(ii) Early commissioning of Madhuband and Kedla Washeries;

(iii) Utilisation of Low-Volatile Medium Coking Coal;

(iv) Tenders floated for "Fuild-own-Operate" (B-O-O) Scheme to set up Washeries for more availability;

(v) Maximising production from existing coking coal mines;

(vi) Better recovery of coal with low ash and increased use to Assam Coal; and

(vii) Installation of De-shaling Plants.

अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के छात्रों के लिए छात्रावास

473. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय देश में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के छात्रों के लिए राज्य-वार/संघ राज्य/क्षेत्र-वार कितने छात्रावास हैं;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान राज्यवार/संघ राज्यक्षेत्र-वार उनमें से कितने छात्रावासों का निर्माण किया गया;

(ग) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान राज्य-वार/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र-वार कितने छात्रवासों का निर्माण करने का विचार है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा कितनी सहायता दी जाएगी?